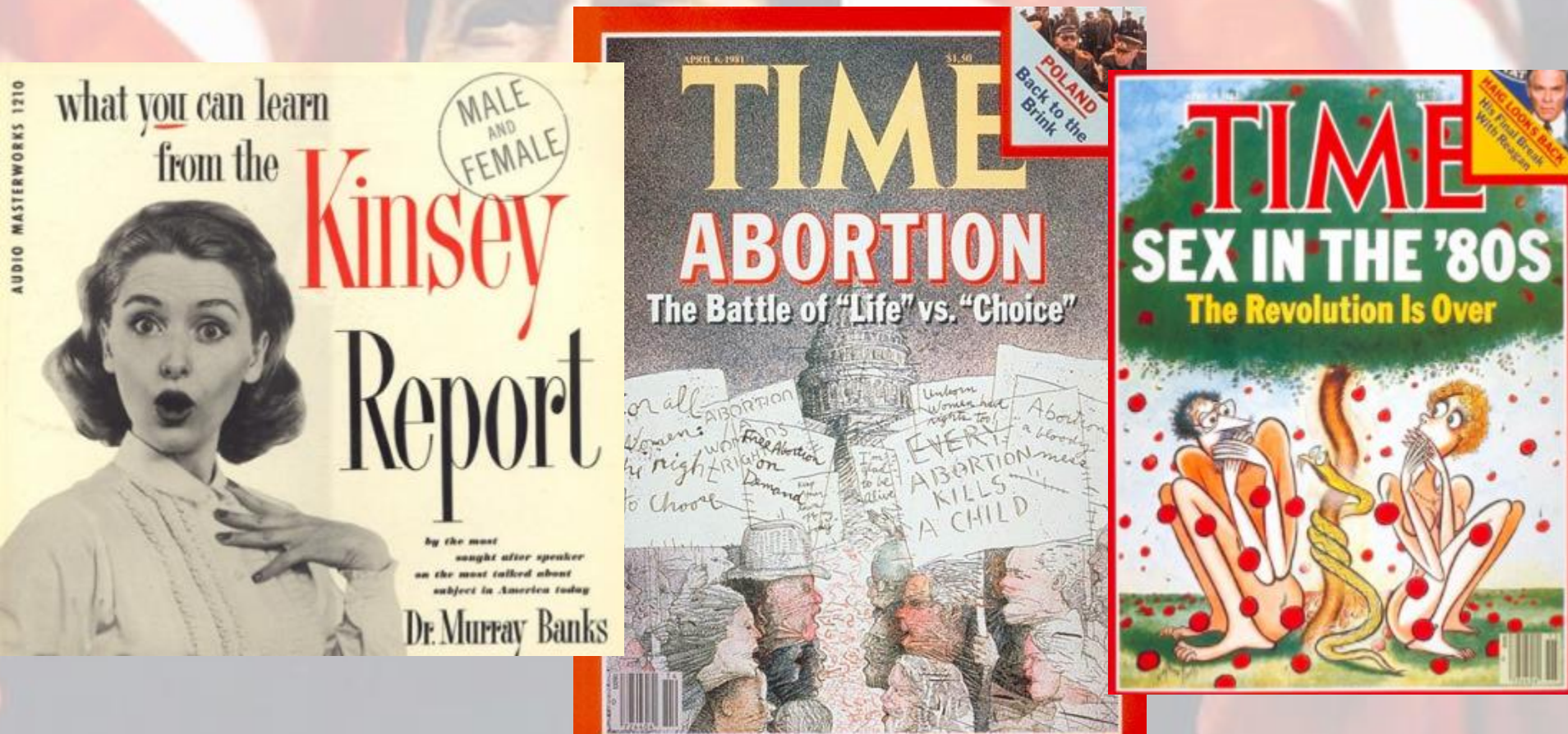




The Reagan Years

Roe v. Wade Mobilizes Conservatives

In the wake of the “Sexual Revolution” and the Women's Liberation Movement, many conservatives sought to restore “traditional family values” → many right-wing, traditional-leaning groups formed in the wake of the decision



The Conservative Coalition aka the “New Right”

- Conservative “Evangelical” Christians
 - **“Moral Majority”** founded by Rev. Jerry Falwell - Baptist Evangelical (& founder of Liberty University); called to restore Christian values in America
- Old, Southern, disenchanted Democrats (and former Dixiecrats)
- Business leaders provided \$
- Middle-class provided support

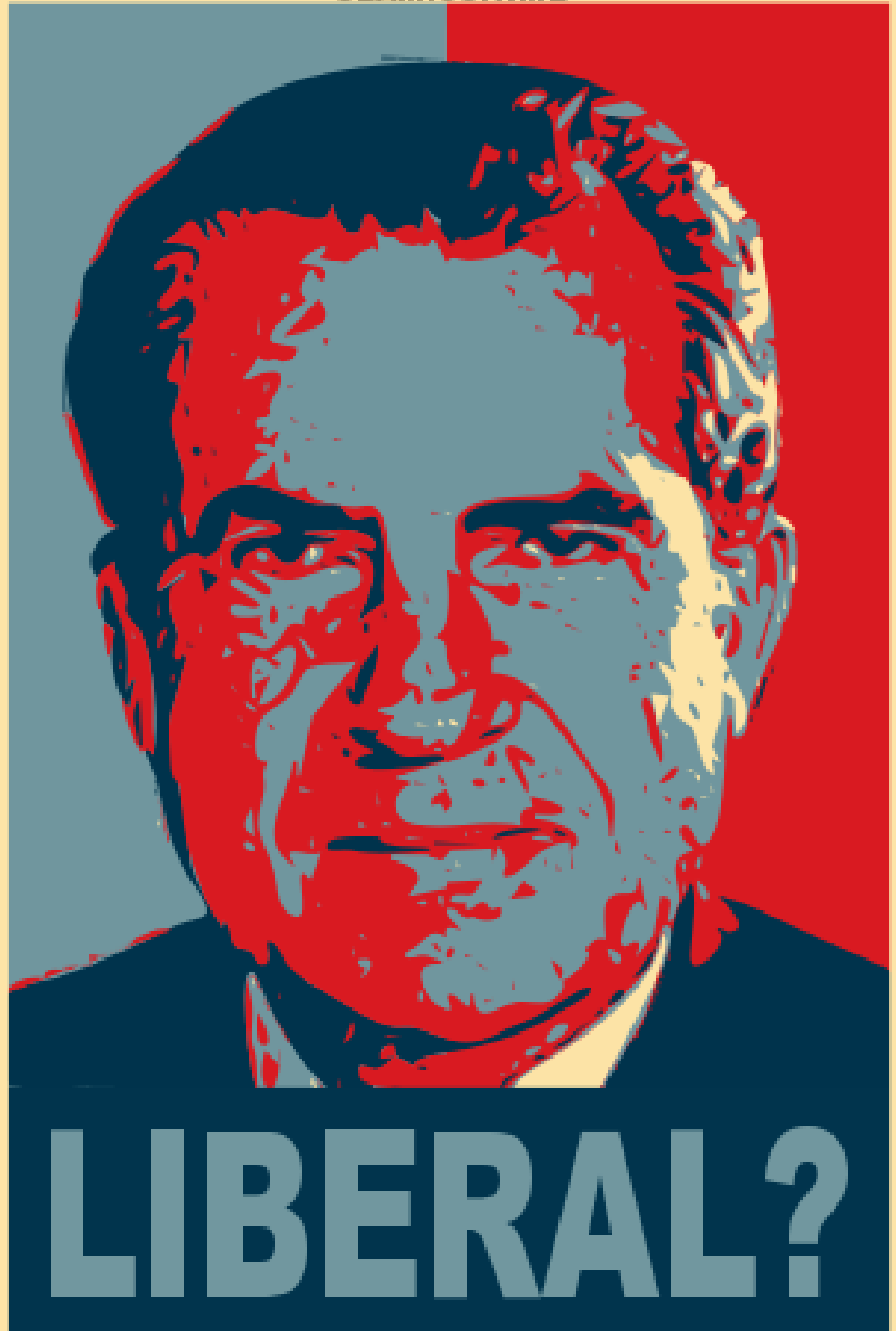
Called for: reduction of social programs, reduction in size and scope of govt, return to U.S. military power and increased patriotism




The “New Right” did not want “another Nixon”

Ratified in the Nixon administration:

- Title IX, Clean Air and Water Acts, (Environmental Protection Agency), Occupational and Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the enforcement of Affirmative Action



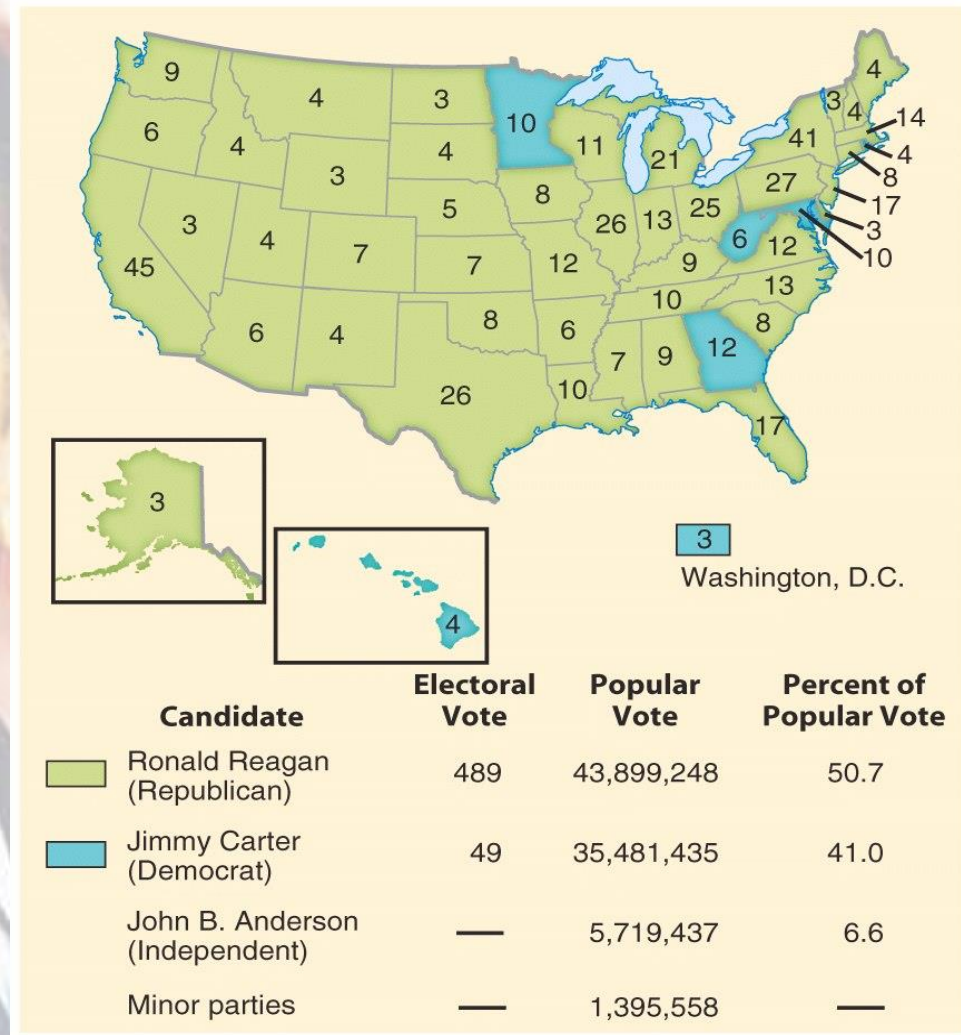
- Former actor and spokesperson for GE
- CA governor
- Very popular with “middle America”



RONALD REAGAN
AS
LT. BRASS BANCROFT

The 1980 Election

- Reagan was optimistic he could restore American's economic capability, military might and honor in the world
- Much of the South had become Republican
- The “New Right” came through for Reagan



The Reagan Revolution and the First Inaugural Address

“In the days ahead I will propose removing the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between various levels of government. Progress may be slow, measured in inches and feet, not miles, but we will progress. It is time to reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, and to lighten our punitive tax burden. And these will be our first priorities, and on these principles there will be no compromise.” -Ronald Reagan, 1981

The Reagan Revolution Begins

- 1st Inaugural Address: "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."
- Reagan was able to capitalize on the new conservative national sentiment with a simple message: low taxes, smaller govt, and strong national defense
- Delivered a clear, concise agenda & conveyed a sense of optimism and accessibility
 - Earned him the title "The Great Communicator"





30 March 1981, Reagan survived an assassination attempt by John Hinkley Jr., who shot the president in an effort to impress actress Jodie Foster

Reagan was more badly injured than the administration reported, but he remained optimistic and his approval rating reached 73% (Future Clinton connection: Brady Bill)

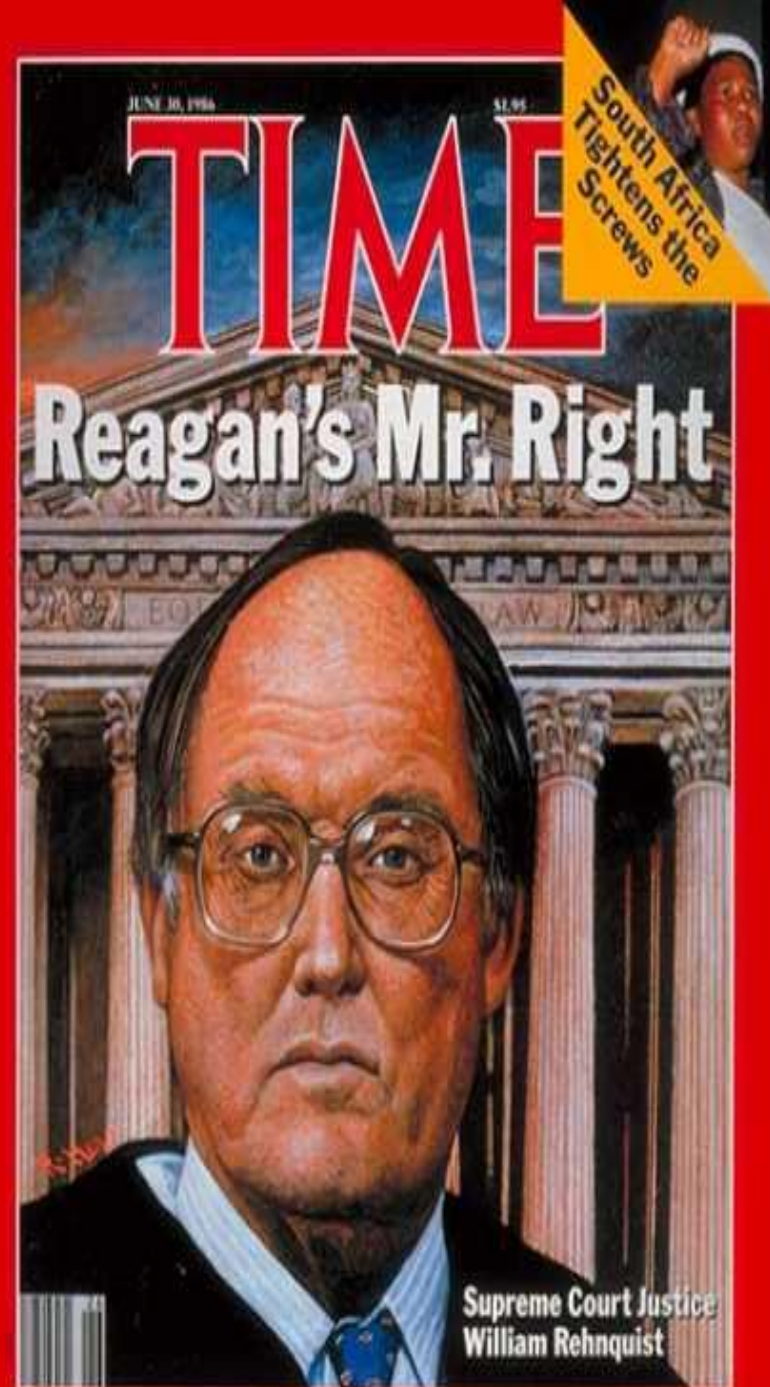
Reagan appointed conservative judges and SC Justices

- Justice William Rehnquist made Chief Justice
- Sandra Day O'Connor: first female SC Justice (and Pro-Choice)
- Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy

“The power I exert on the court depends on the power of my arguments, not on my gender.”

—Sandra Day O'Connor

 **half the sky**
movement
Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide



Rehnquist's Key Philosophies

- Conflicts between the individual and the govt should be resolved *against* the individual
- Conflicts between state and federal authority should be resolved in *favor* of states

Notable decisions:

- Dissenting opinion in *Roe v. Wade* ('73)
- Dissented in *Wallace v. Jaffree* ('85) that silent prayer violated the "wall of separation"
- Dissented in *TX v. Johnson* that flag-burning was protected political speech



Reagan's New Federalism

Decreased funding for govt social welfare programs → gave more responsibility to the states to provide funds for their residents' needs

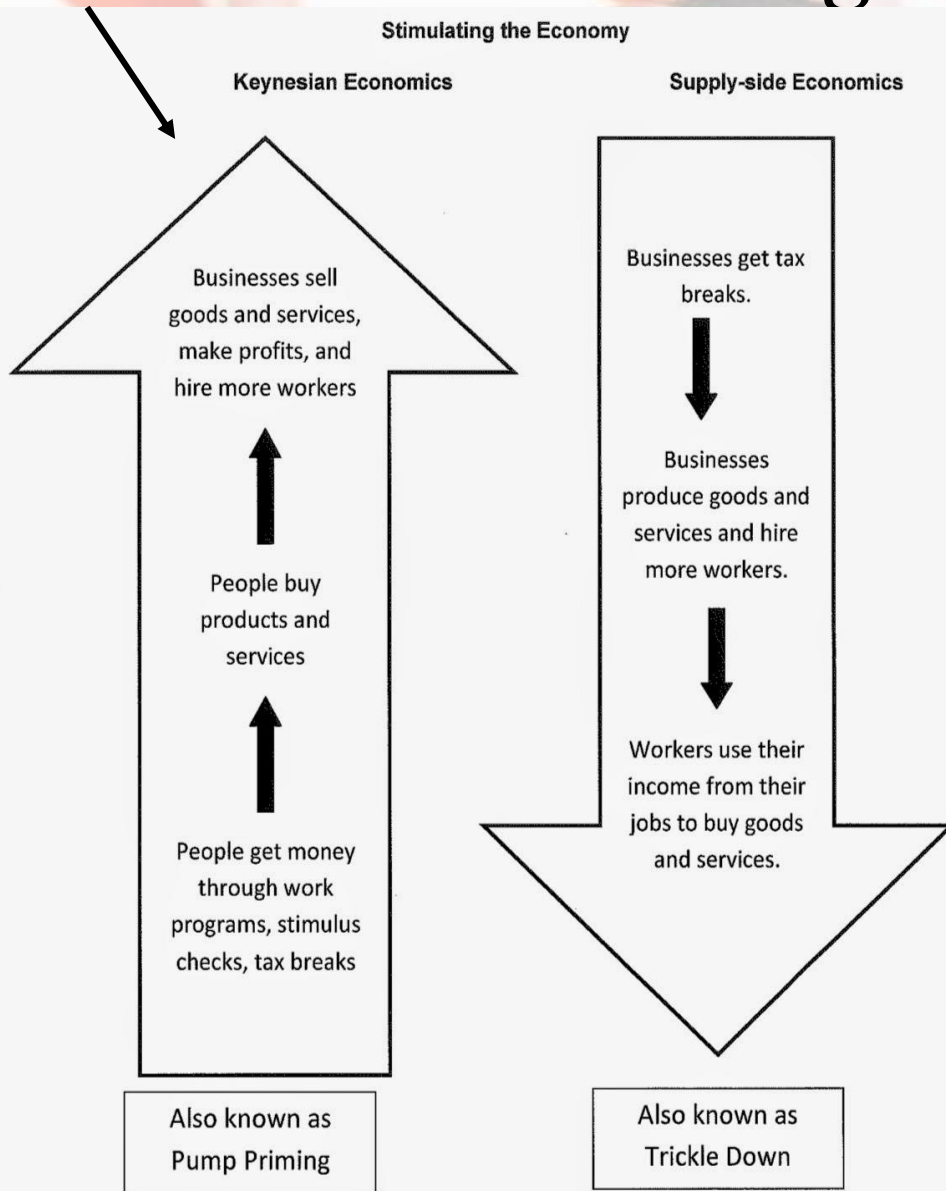
His advocacy of “Rugged Individualism” earned him criticism from the left



Supply-Side Economics aka

FDR's New Deal

“Reaganomics”

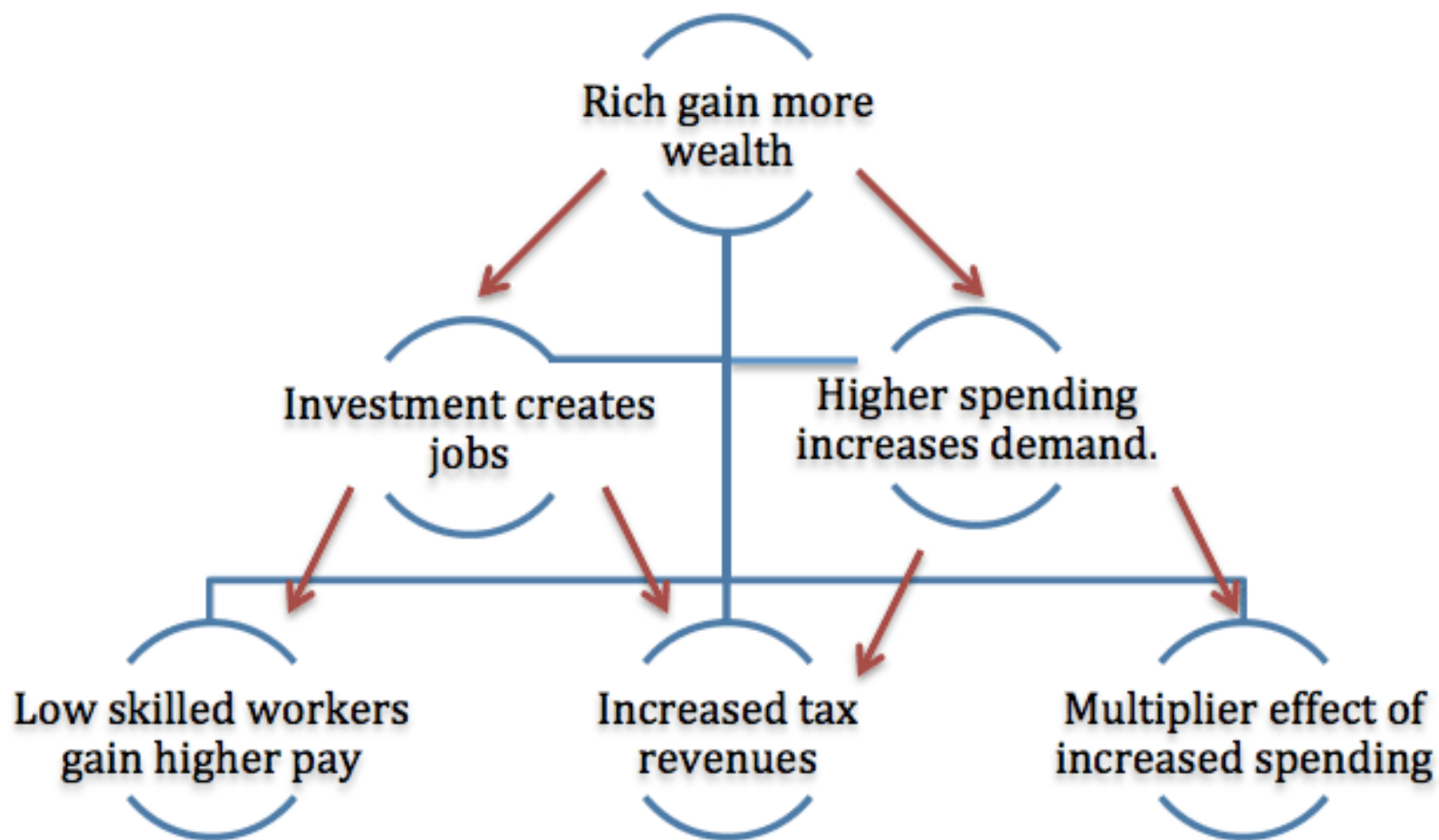


Introduced during campaign

- Lowered corporate taxes to put more money into the hands of businesses → more investment in the “supply side” of the economy
- Lowered income taxes by 25%

Intended effect:

- Promote job creation
- Encourage capital investment
- Stimulate industrial growth



“Deregulation”

- Continued Carter’s programs to deregulate key industries
- Energy, transportation, and banking industries
- 1981: challenged Air Traffic Controllers by firing those who refused to go back to work after a strike



Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

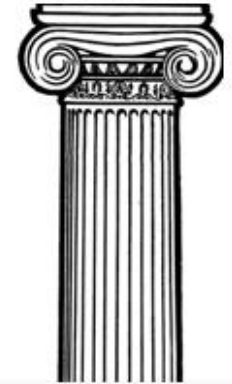
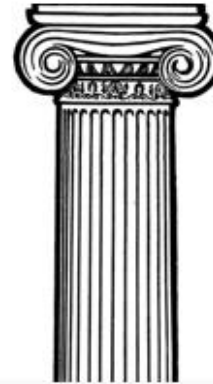
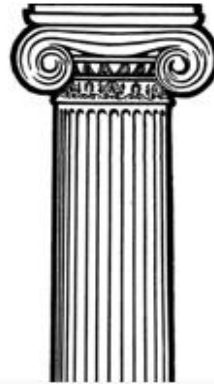
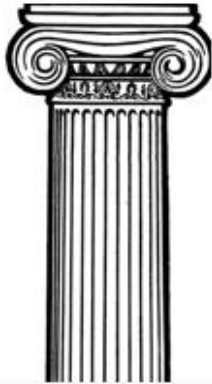
(Ronald Reagan)

Reduce
Federal
Income and
Capital Gains
Taxes

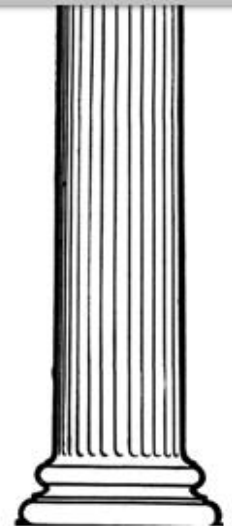
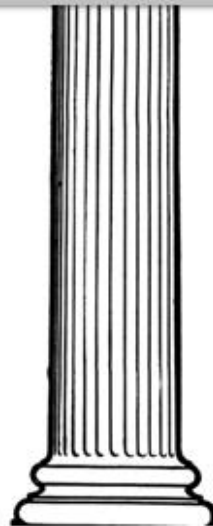
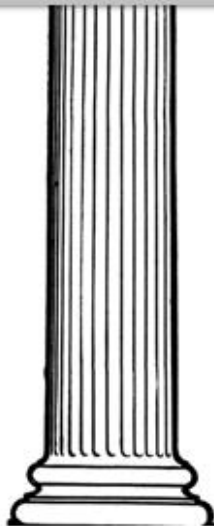
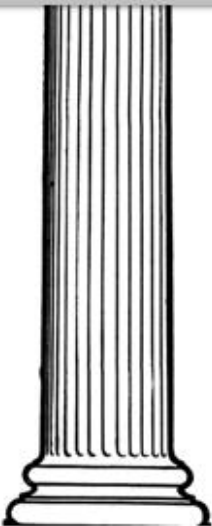
Reduce
Federal
Spending

Reduce
Government
Regulation

Tighten the
Money
Supply to
Reduce
Inflation



The Four Pillars of Reaganomics



The Effects of Reaganomics

Critics of Reaganomics

- Claimed tax breaks made the rich richer, said wealth did not “trickle down” to the working-class
- Claimed tax cuts combined with increased military spending would drive the federal deficit higher

Even George H.W. Bush questioned the ability to cut taxes while increasing the military budget during his bid for the republican nomination, calling it “voodoo economics”



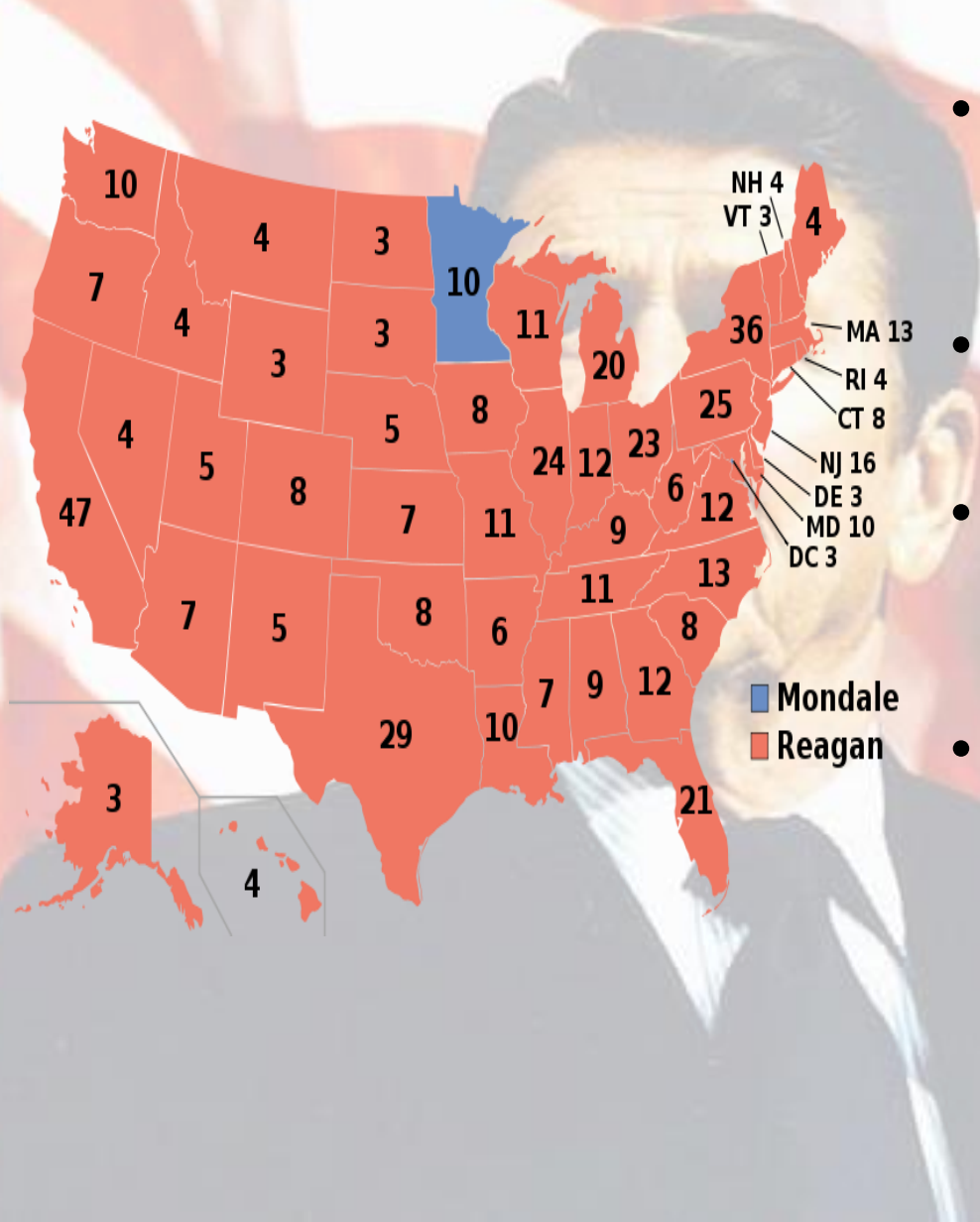
Recession and Recovery

Stagflation continued into 1982

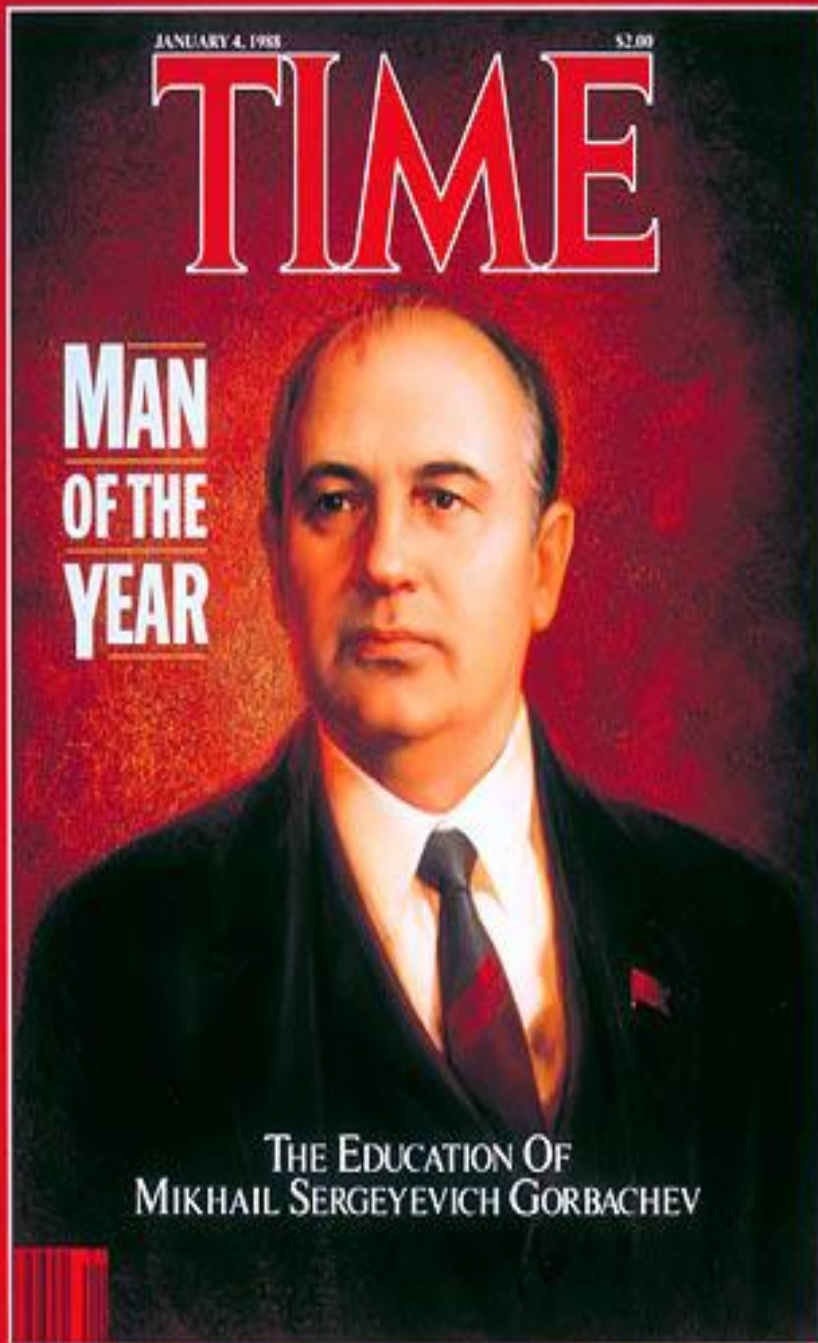
- Inflation slowed → consumer spending increased
- Stock market prices rose
- Federal deficit grew even as domestic spending decreased → stabilized by 1983 and economy grew for the rest of the Reagan years
- National debt:
 - \$909 billion in 1980
 - \$3.2 trillion in 1990



Election of 1984



- Reagan's Slogan: "It's Morning in America Again"
- 59% of popular vote
- 2nd largest electoral victory in history
- **Geraldine Ferraro** (Democratic) was the first female VP candidate for a major party



- Reagan called the Soviet Union “the Evil Empire”
- **“Reagan Doctrine”**
 - No longer contain communism, but end it
 - Give support to anti-communist groups in communist countries
- Reagan increased military spending to bankrupt the USSR
- Moves U.S. away from Détente (1st term)
- **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)** aka “Star Wars”
 - 1983: U.S. will use satellites to intercept incoming ICBMs
- **Mikhail Gorbachev: 1985**
 - New Soviet General Secretary
 - Begins programs to democratize
 - Perestroika*: allow some private ownership
 - Glasnost*: freedom of speech and press



-Soviet-Afghan War ('79-'89)

- The U.S. supplied the Mujahedeen, or Muslim freedom fighters (Osama bin Laden a member)

-Iran-Iraq War ('80-'88)

- Iran wants to spread fundamental Islam (Khomeini)
- The U.S. supplied Saddam Hussein of Iraq
- Hussein used chemical weapons against the Kurds during the war



Lebanon 1983

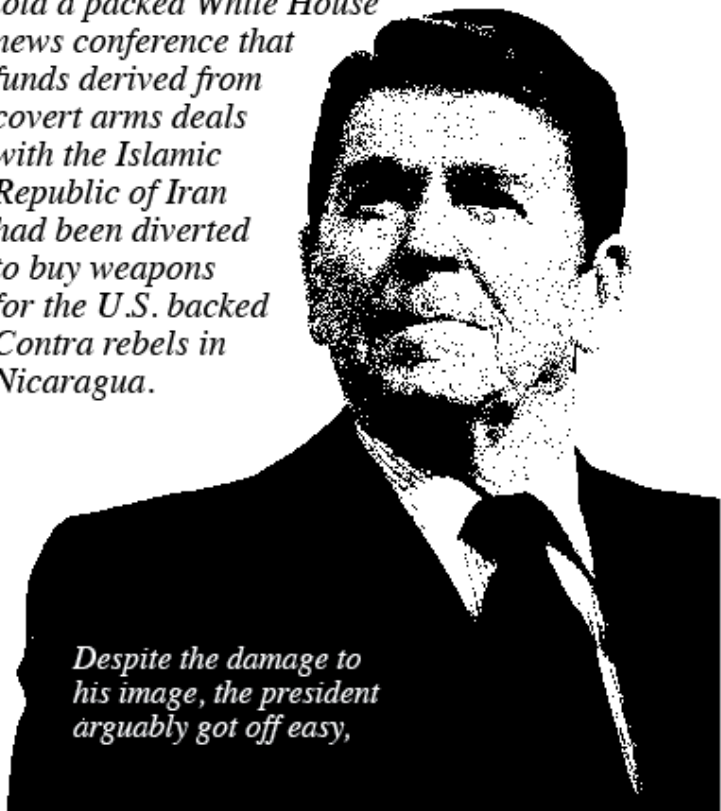
- War in Lebanon between Christians, Israelis, Palestinians, Islamic terrorist group Hezbollah
- Israel invades Lebanon and Reagan sends peacekeepers to Lebanon's capital city, Beirut to oversee Palestinian withdrawal
- Iranian backed Hezbollah terrorists hijacked U.S. planes and took U.S. hostages to force an end to U.S. presence in Lebanon
- Reagan said he "would not negotiate with terrorists" (Hezbollah) for release of hostages
- Hezbollah suicide bombers blew up the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241

1986

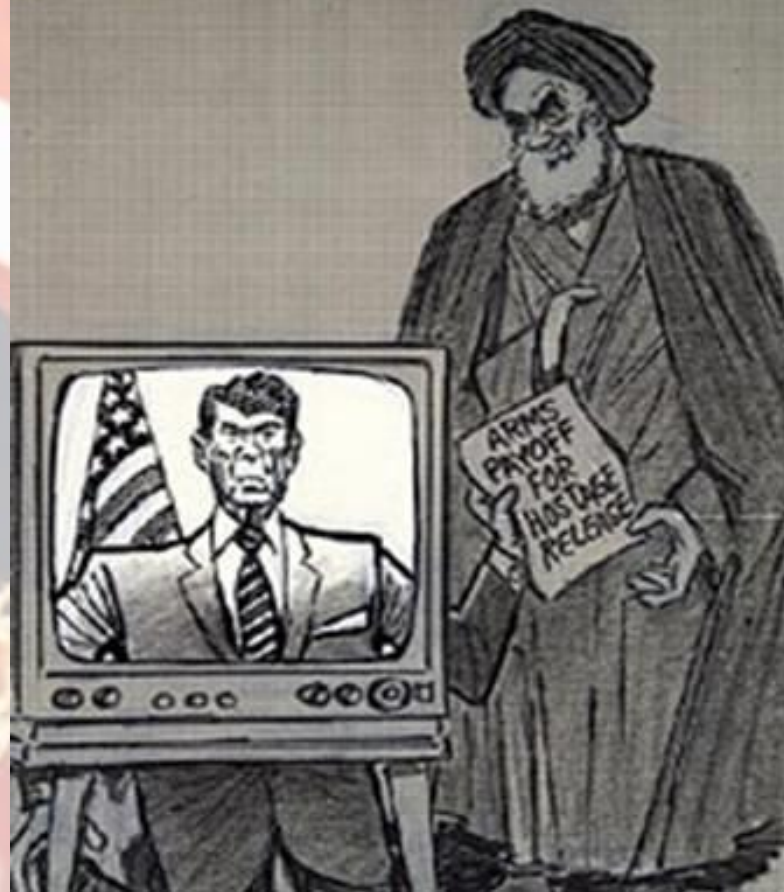
Documents Spotlight Role of Reagan and Top Aides

The Iran- Contra Affair

On November 25, 1986, the biggest political and constitutional scandal since Watergate exploded in Washington when President Ronald Reagan told a packed White House news conference that funds derived from covert arms deals with the Islamic Republic of Iran had been diverted to buy weapons for the U.S. backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

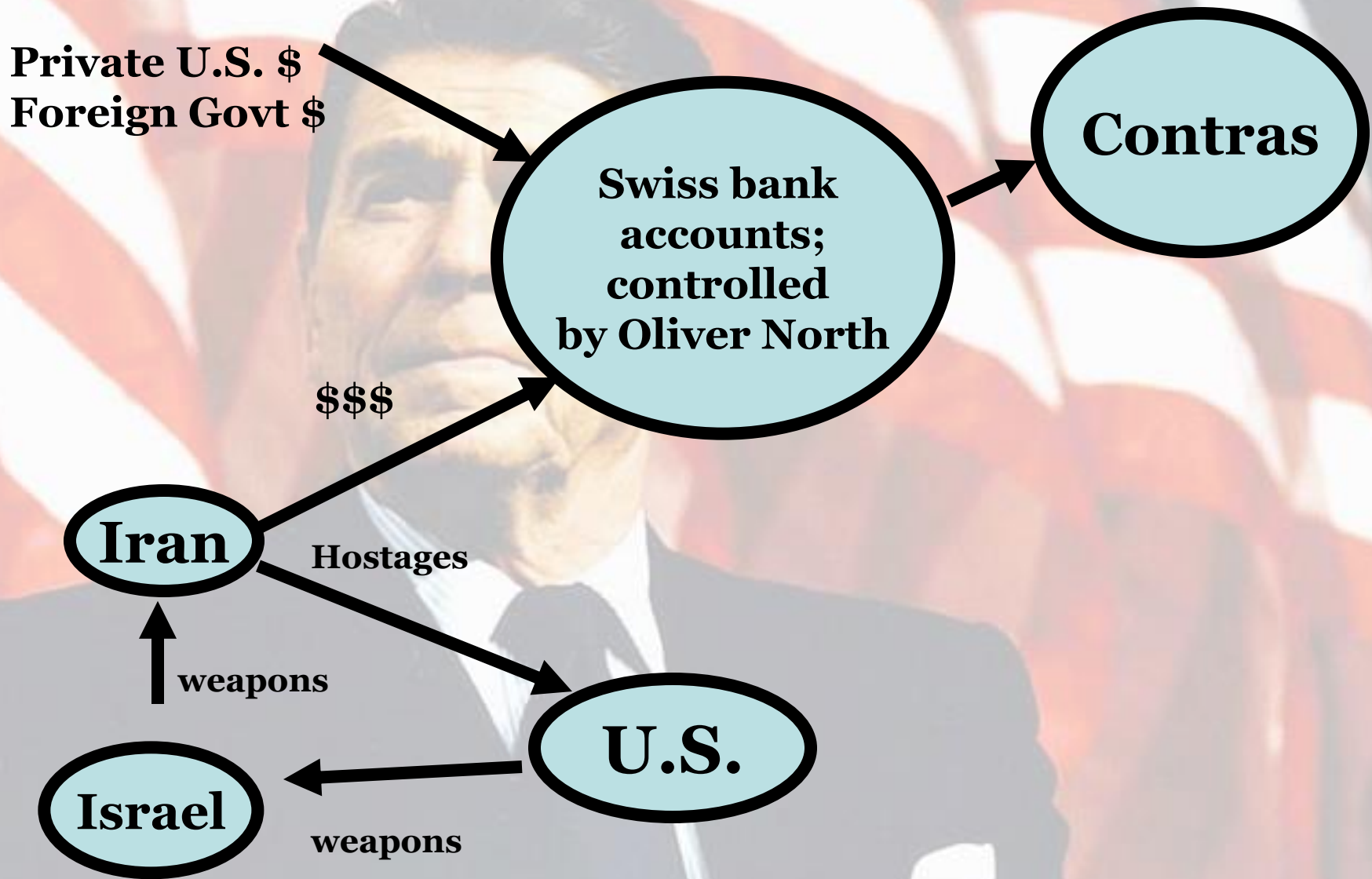


Despite the damage to his image, the president arguably got off easy,



- The U.S. govt sells \$30 million in weapons to Iran (Khomeini) in its war against Iraq (Hussein) AKA "Arms for hostages"
- Iran then forces Hezbollah to free U.S. hostages and quit terrorist attacks on Americans in Lebanon
- U.S. took Iran's money and illegally gave money to the rebel fighters (Contras) in Nicaragua to buy weapons from the CIA

The Iran Contra Scandal



The Fall of the Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall remained a repressive symbol of Soviet communism

- To calm rising protests in East Germany, the govt opened the gates of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989
 - Thousands of East Berliners poured into West Berlin
 - Berliners pulled down the razor wire and spontaneously began ripping down the wall with axes and sledgehammers and their bare hands

Less than a year later, East Germany and West Germany were reunified as one country



Other issues: 1984-1988

HIV/AIDS epidemic brings Reagan under fire for not addressing the crisis

28 January 1986: space shuttle *Challenger* explodes shortly after takeoff



1986 Immigration and Reform Control Act (IRCA)

AKA “Simpson-Mazzoli Act”

- Granted amnesty to 3 mil. illegal immigrants primarily from SE Asia & Latin America
- Punished employers for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants
- Allowed illegal immigrants who have lived in the U.S. since Jan ‘82 to apply for legal status (required: clean record, registered in Selective Service if applicable, etc.)
- Raised questions about the future of bilingual education and public schooling, healthcare for undocumented immigrants

